PATENT

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, lines 10-12, please amend the paragraph as follows:

This is a Continuation_in_Part of U.S. Patent Application [Serial] No. 09/693,713, "Digital Signing Method," by Kunihiko Miyazaki[,] et[.] al., filed October 19, 2000, which claims priority from Japanese Application Nos. 11-201216, filed October 22, 1999, and 2000-081712, filed March 17, 2000, the disclosures of which [is] are [herein] incorporated herein by reference in [its entirety] their entireties.

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